

S.N.A. ♦ ♦ ♦ Who's Who

SHRI P. V. RAJMANAR

After a brilliant academic career—he secured 'firsts' in English and in Philosophy at the B.A. and the Jurisprudence prize at the B.L.—M. Rajamannar served as apprentice and later as junior under his father, Diwan Bahadur P. Venkataramana Rao, and grew up in an atmosphere rich in the tradition of culture and legal lore. He proved fully equal to all the exacting rigours of the profession of law, and in 1944, twenty years after his enrolment, he was appointed Advocate General in succession to Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, appeared in some of the sensational trials and won golden opinions all round. In July 1945 he was appointed as a Judge of the Madras High Court and in January 1948, its Chief Justice.

He is keenly interested in music, dance, drama and fine arts and has been taking an active part in their development for nearly 30 years. He has extensively written and broadcast on music, drama and film. From 1922 to 1925, he edited a literary journal in Telugu named Kala. He secured in 1924 the Ramarayanimgar Prize with a Telugu work on "Representative Government in Ancient India." He has written a series of remarkable one-act plays which have won for him a considerable reputation and have been translated into Tamil, Hindi and other modern Indian languages. His wide knowledge of English, Sanskrit and Telugu and his passion for painting, music and their sister arts have given his intellect the embracing fluidity of imaginative comprehension, and have helped him to acquire the poise, the grace, the nuances of social deportment and the quiddities of human behaviour which have made him one of the most courteous as he is one of the most genial of men. He is the Chairman of the Sangeet Natak Akadami.

SHRI UDAY SHANKAR

Born in the picturesque and historic place of Udaipur, Uday Shankar spent most of his childhood in Ghazipur and Banaras. While a small boy he took interest in painting and his father got him admitted in the Royal College of Arts, London. He began to take training in the plastic art under the guidance of Sir William Rothenstein.

The famous Russian dancer, Anna Pavlova, snatched him away from the college of arts. After joining Pavlova's Ballet Company, he arranged two Hindu Ballets in which he was her partner, and subsequently, he accompanied her on a coast to coast tour of the United States. Returning to Europe he worked as a professional dancer in London

and Paris. He made his company and toured round the world. In 1939 he opened a Culture Centre in Almorah, U. P. which had to be closed down during World War II. With a view to making his dynamic art permanent, he opened another channel and produced a film "KALPANA" which received the second place in the world's list of movies.

SHRI SACHIN SEN GUPTA

Born in 1891 at Sentrati, a village in Khulna District, Shri Sen Gupta was educated at the National Council of Education founded in 1906 by Shri Arobindo and other political leaders. In his early life he was associated with revolutionary activities. Later on he took to journalism as profession and life's mission and worked as editor for papers owned by Shri Arobindo and Shri Subhas Bose. At the same time he began writing for the Bengali stage. He has to his credit 32 plays including a few renderings. All of them have been staged in several Bengali Theatres. More than a dozen of them were acclaimed to be hits having a continuous run exceeding hundred nights each. Many of his plays are broadcast and 8 of them have been recorded by the Gramophone Company Ltd. He has been a favourite of 2 successive generations of play-goers and the stage artistis of Calcutta had honoured him by an address of appreciation and by a presentation of a purse containing 5,500 and several other gifts. He has been associated with various theatre groups including the Indian Peoples Theatre Association, the Bohurupree and the Little Theatre.

He was the leader of the Cultural Delegation organised by the All India Peace Council to the People's Republic of China where he was received by the Chairman, Mao Tse Tung and honoured by a State banquet.

SHRI MAN MOHAN SWARUP BHATNAGAR

Shri M. S. Bhatnagar entered the I. A. & A. S. on 10th March 1931 and filled various jobs in the Audit and Railways Departments in India during his training period. He joined the Finance and Commerce Department Pool in 1939 and was posted as Under-Secretary in the Commerce Department of the Government of India from where he came over to the Military and Supply Finance. Afterwards he became Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Finance since then he has been working as Financial Adviser to the Ministries of External Affairs, States, Education, N. R. & S. R., etc., to watch the interest of the Central Exchequer. In addition to representing Finance Ministry on the

executive bodies of the four Central Universities, viz., Banaras, Aligarh, Delhi and Viswabharati, he has been closely associated with the various educational, scientific and cultural institutions in the country such as:

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
Madras Technical Institute
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay
Ahmedabad Textile Industries' Research Association
History of Freedom Movement in India
National Research Development Corporation
Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science.
Sangeet Natak Akadami etc., etc.

A finance officer of ripe experience and wide outlook he is also a keen golf and tennis player.

DR. BULBUL MITRA

Dr Bulbul Mitra was born in 1919 at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. She is the youngest daughter of Shrimati Usha Devi Mitra, a well-known personality in the Hindi literary world. A graduate of the Banaras Hindu University she took her M.A. degree in History from the University of Nagpur. She learnt Music under Pt. Omkarnath Thakur, Mahadeva Prasad, ex-Court Musician of Nepal State and Shri Girija Shankar of Calcutta and received several prizes and Awards in various music conferences. She conducted research work under the guidance of Pt. Ratanjankar and completed her thesis on "Bhairava Raga and its traditional aspect" and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Saugar University.

While still in her twenties Dr. Mitra held high positions of responsibility. She was vice-Principal and Principal of M. K. College Dehra Dun and Women's Academy of Lucknow respectively for a considerable period of time. She belongs to the Education Service of Madhya Pradesh being on the staff of Prantiya Shikshana Mahavidyalay, Jabalpur. She is also the Head of the Department of music and Home science, University of Saugar as well as the convenor of Board of Studies for Music and a member of the Academic Council of the Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI J. C. MATHUR

Secretary, Education Department, Government of Bihar, since April 1949. Born—January 16, 1917, son of the late L. N. Mathur; Education—Allahabad University, Ewing Christian College, Allahabad; J. A. S. High School, Khurja. Entered the I.C.S., 1941; Founded the Vaisali Sangha, 1945; sponsored the Bihar Academy of Music, Dance, Drama and Folk Dramatic Parties in Bihar. Began writing plays in Hindi in 1935. Prior to that, had acted in

numerous plays in school and college dramatic societies. Has so far written about 20 plays some of them full length pieces, and most of which have been successfully staged in different places in North India, and also broadcast and translated into other languages. Has written several articles on different aspects of the theatre in India. Is at present editing the quarterly journal "THE BIHAR THEATRE."

SHRI SURJIT SINGH

Born in Kashmir state S. Surjit Singh, right from his very childhood appeared on the stage in various capacities. His interest in Music, Dance and Drama remained all through his school and college days bringing him many laurels for his achievement in these arts.

He holds various Gold Medals for music and drama awarded by the PEPSU Government. He acted as the Music Secretary to All India Education Conference held at Patiala and also as Judge of the All India Music competition held at Amritsar. He represented his State in many All India Conferences. Besides being a writer of stories and dramas, he is a social worker and a sportsman having won a Trophy and many titles.

PANDIT DILIPCHANDRA VEDI

Vediji was born in 1901 in the village Anandpur, Punjab. He belongs to the noble family of Guru Nanak Dev. Without having a family tradition in music, Mehtab-i-Musiqui, Pandit Dilipchandra Vedi attained perfection in various forms of classical music. He had the benefit of learning from masters like Pt. Bhaskar Rao Bakhle and Ustad Faiyaz Khan. Pt. Vedi has won many laurels in the field of music. Many of his disciples have earned a name of themselves. (To be continued.)